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Aller Anfang is schwer

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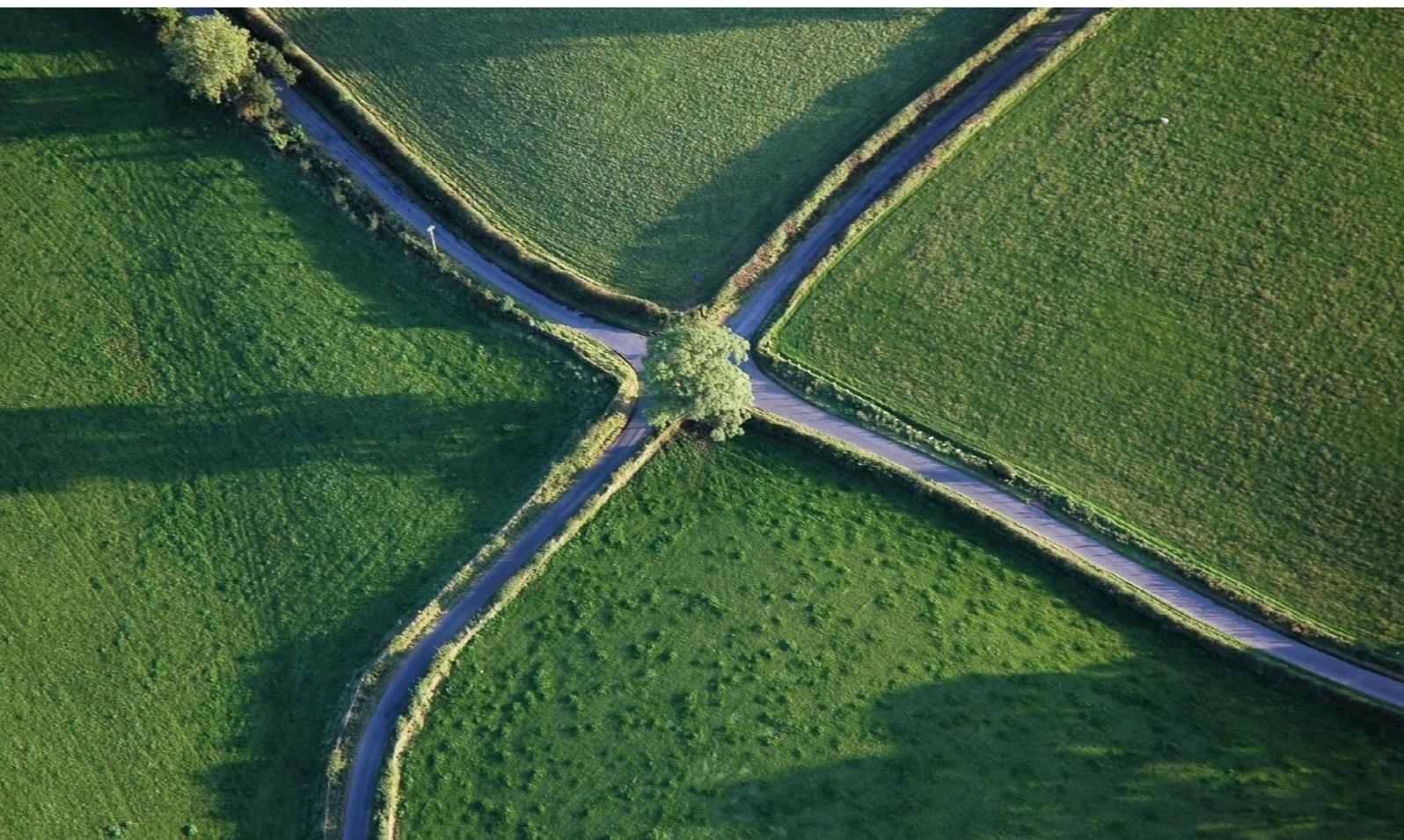
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INTER-SECTION

Innovative approaches by Junior Archaeological Researchers

II



PATTERNS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF GRAVES IN THE CENTRAL MEDIEVAL CEMETERY OF REUSEL, THE NETHERLANDS
LOCAL VARIATIONS IN BURIAL PRACTICES
Catelijne I. Nater

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A STUDY ON THE MATILO MASK, ITS DEPOSITIONAL CONTEXT AND THE ASSOCIATED FINDS
Tom E. de Rijk

DETECTING CULTURAL FORMATION PROCESSES THROUGH ARTHROPOD ASSEMBLAGES
A CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR URBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WASTE-/CESSPITS
Sander E. I. Aerts

MOLLUSC COLLECTION AND SALT-PRODUCTION RESOURCE-PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE GULF OF FONSECA
Marie M. Kolbenstetter

THE 'LIVELY' STREETS OF CLASSICAL OLYNTHOS
A SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF URBAN LIFE ON THE NORTH HILL, 432 – 348 BCE
Elena Cuijpers

INTER-SECTION
15 December 2016
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CONTENTS

Editorial Preface

*Dean Peeters, Mette B. Langbroek, Robin Nieuwenkamp,
Femke H. Reidsma, Roosmarie J.C. Vlaskamp*
‘ALLER ANFANG IST SCHWER’

2

Catelijne I. Nater

**PATTERNS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF GRAVES IN THE
CENTRAL MEDIEVAL CEMETERY OF REUSEL, THE
NETHERLANDS**
LOCAL VARIATIONS IN BURIAL PRACTICES

5

Tom E. de Rijk

LIMINALITY ALONG THE LIMES
**A STUDY ON THE MATILO MASK, ITS DEPOSITIONAL CONTEXT
AND THE ASSOCIATED FINDS**

14

Sander E. I. Aerts

**DETECTING CULTURAL FORMATION PROCESSES THROUGH
ARTHROPOD ASSEMBLAGES**
A CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR URBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WASTE-/CESSPITS

22

Marie M. Kolbenstetter

**MOLLUSC COLLECTION AND SALT-PRODUCTION
RESOURCE-PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE GULF OF
FONSECA**

29

Elena Cuijpers

THE ‘LIVELY’ STREETS OF CLASSICAL OLYNTHOS
A SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF URBAN LIFE ON THE NORTH HILL, 432 – 348 BCE

36

Thesis Overview

September 2015 - August 2016

43

EDITORIAL PREFACE

‘ALLER ANFANG IST SCHWER’

*Dean Peeters¹, Mette B. Langbroek²
Robin Nieuwenkamp³, Femke H. Reidsma⁴, Roosmarie J.C. Vlaskamp⁵*

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the second volume of INTER-SECTION: Innovative Approaches by Junior Archaeological Researchers. This journal emanates from the observation that student research, which is carried out conforming to high theoretical and methodological standards, is generally only read by a handful of people. Our aim is to make student research performed at the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University, available to a broader public by stimulating these junior archaeologists to channelize their ‘fresh’ and innovative ideas and practice into short, focused articles. Reviews conducted by renowned external scholars further aid in the improvement of these papers and provide invaluable experience for a future academic career. The product of another cycle of writing, reviewing, rewriting and editing lies here in front of you. We wish you a happy and interesting read with our present volume!

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‘By three methods we may learn wisdom:

*First, by reflection, which is noblest
Second, by imitation, which is easiest
and third by experience, which is the bitterest’*

Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)

On September 17, 2015, *INTER-SECTION*, Innovative Approaches by Junior Archaeological Researchers was successfully launched with the presentation of its first volume during the Dean’s lectures at the Faculty of Archaeology,

Leiden University. Over a year later, we are very pleased to present the second volume, again comprised of innovative studies carried out by (recently graduated) Archaeology students from Leiden University. As described in the quote above, Confucius believed reflection to be the “noblest” method for obtaining wisdom. And while this may only be our second publication, we feel it is never too early to reflect on one’s experiences.

In our editorial statement accompanying *INTER-SECTION 1*, we acknowledged and sketched the confusing and problematic reality that recently graduated students face when trying to take

the next step on the academic ladder and entering an increasingly more competitive academic arena: more and more academic development and maturity is expected from recently graduated students. The phrase ‘publish or perish’ seems very applicable to this current situation, as up and around three publications seems to have become the norm against which a CV will be evaluated, for instance, during a Ph.D.-application.

This experience and/or academic track-record is, however, often hard to obtain while studying for your degree(s). This period should instead be spent developing your interests and yourself as a person, and to a lesser degree on building an extensive list of academic publications, conference presentations and similar activities. A certain pressure thus exists to publish one’s research at an early stage. By trying to facilitate this difficult (and often first) step towards publishing in an academic language through a system of teaching referees and anonymous, international reviewers, we hope to stimulate and support innovative junior archaeologists to publish their own research and make it available for a broader scientific community.

That experiencing and reflecting can both be ‘bitter’ trajectories is something potential authors—and we ourselves as junior editors in the same academic field—have encountered during the last cycles of peer-review for this postponed second volume. This illustrates the exact reason why our initiative, just like the long-running *Tijdschrift voor Mediterrane Archeologie*¹ and recently initiated *Kleos* (Amsterdam Bulletin of Ancient Studies and Archaeology)², fulfils an important role by stimulating and facilitating student publication in an accessible way. Specifically, the opportunity to receive constructive reviews by specialists in a junior archaeologist’s own field provides a certain moment of reflection that is usually restricted to a single instance of feedback and rewriting on one’s first version of a thesis. The writing of a short, focused article appears to be a different exercise entirely. ‘Aller Anfang ist schwer’, is the way in which these important, but now and then difficult, first steps on the academic ladder can be aptly phrased in German.

1 The small alleys, stenopoi, running from east to west in the middle of each house block are excluded from the analysis, as they were mainly used for drainage and not for passage (Robinson and Graham 1938, 33-34; Nevet 1999, 55-56). Another hypothesis is that the alleys serve as light sources, allowing light to enter the houses through windows placed along the walls (Graham 1958, 322).

2 The small alleys, stenopoi, running from east to west in the middle of each house block are excluded from the analysis, as they were mainly used for drainage and not for passage (Robinson and Graham 1938, 33-39; Nevet 1999, 55-56). Another hypothesis is that the alleys serve as light sources, allowing light to enter the houses through windows placed along the walls (Graham 1958, 322).

As we conclude our ‘noble’ moment of reflection, we again remember Confucius who not only tells us that life can at times be bitter, but also that beauty is everywhere around us. We believe this is reflected in the fine collection of papers bundled into this volume.

Contents

We are very happy and proud to present to you in this second volume papers that focus on various regions, timespans and themes of research, and work between and across the traditional archaeological ‘specialisations’ offered by the Leiden University Faculty of Archaeology; worthy of the name *INTER-SECTION*.

The first contribution is by Cathelijne Nater and offers a detailed spatial evaluation of burial practices at the cemetery of Reusel (Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands) from the 10th-13th centuries CE, focusing on grave orientation and morphology. By discussing her findings in the light of differentiation on the basis of social status and gender, Nater comes to the conclusion that the site-specific pattern and inter-site variation in burial customs in this period to some extent resulted from the freedom to which local communities could “give their own interpretation to Christian rituals”.

Tom de Rijk’s study is also set in the Netherlands and focuses on the Roman cavalry helmet that was excavated at Matilo (Leiden, the Netherlands). De Rijk takes the unique opportunity to thoroughly evaluate this extraordinary find in the same light as the archaeological layers in which it was retrieved, “possibly liminal and *in situ*”. In this way, de Rijk contributes to a better understanding on the questions “if this helmet should be seen as a ritual deposition” and “whether the concept of liminality can be applied to the Matilo mask”.

The next contribution stays in the field of contextual depositional analyses of archaeological evidence, specifically discussing how remains of arthropods (i.e., invertebrate insects and spiders) can provide additional depositional information in archaeological contexts. In his contribution, Sander Aerts evaluates and elaborates upon Michael Schiffer’s classic work *Formation Processes of the Archaeological Record* and proposes a conceptual model linking arthropods assemblages to cultural formation processes, potentially leading to a better understanding of stratigraphy and deposition by allowing for the identification of “ ‘invisible’ stratigraphies and functions”.

In her article, Marie Kolbenstetter explores the collection of molluscs and the production of salt in the Gulf of Fonseca, bordering El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, from roughly 550 to 1200 CE. Based on several case studies from around the Gulf, various economic models of procurement and redistribution, including centralized production and seasonal mobility, are put forward and tested. By evaluating the traces of these economic activities, Kolbenstetter gains a better understanding of the regional pattern of economic activity and the economic advantages that are offered by the Gulf of Fonseca.

In the last contribution, Elena Cuijpers evaluates the Greek site of Olynthus from a spatial perspective. Using the exceptional preservation of this site to her advantage, Cuijpers applies a range of macro- and micro-scale space-syntax analyses to examine the built and non-built environment and manages to provide additional perspectives on the seemingly well-known "lively streets of Olynthus", specifically regarding matters of social activity, social control, privacy and movement through this urban environment.

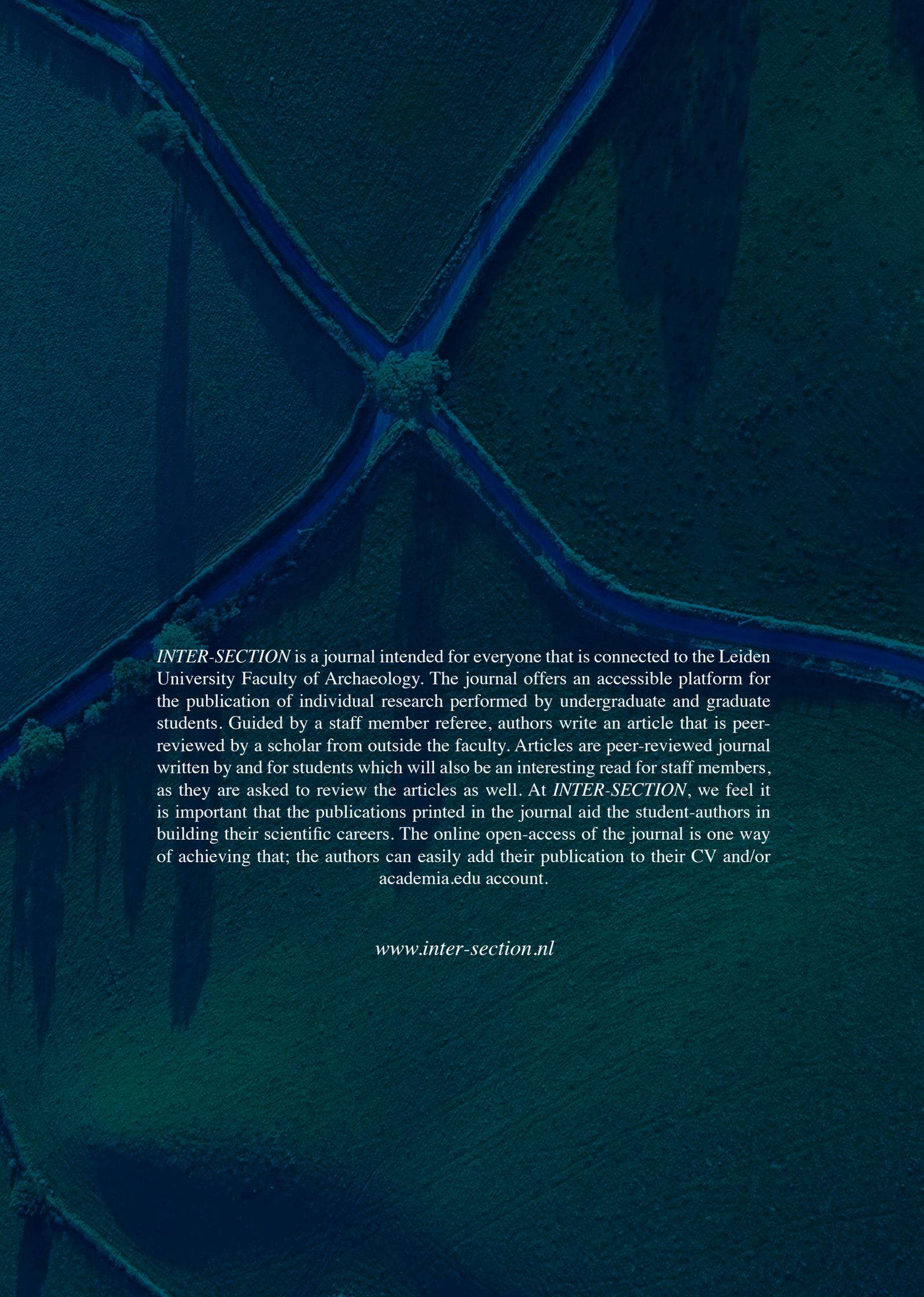
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First and foremost, we would like to thank the contributing authors, Sander Aerts, Elena Cuijpers, Marie Kolbenstetter, Catelijne Nater and Tom de Rijk, for their enthusiasm and for sharing their excellent research with us in this second volume of *INTER-SECTION*. We are very thankful for the many people who have contributed and supported us, and our aims, in our last cycle towards publication. A special word of gratitude is needed for the members of the Board of the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University, our Editorial Advisory Committee, the authors' teaching referees and the anonymous reviewers for their invaluable support in making this volume possible. Furthermore, we are very grateful for the initiative taken by Dr. Geeske Langejans to organise a skill-course on academic writing for the authors of the current volume, which provided another precious and fruitful moment of feedback for the individual authors, certainly contributing to the quality of this second volume. We also would like to thank Andrew Sorensen for his kind proof-reading of this preface and English language revisions. A further thank you and welcome is wished here to Femke Reidsma, who replied positively and full of enthusiasm to our request to join our Editorial Board after the publication of our first volume last year.

Practical Details

INTER-SECTION: Innovative Approaches by Junior Archaeological Researchers is an open-access

journal. It is our aim to publish twice a year, both online (<http://www.inter-section.nl>) and in a limited number of hardcopies, with five to seven articles per edition. To further stimulate the publicity of research conducted by archaeology students, each edition will contain an overview of all undergraduate and graduate thesis titles that have been approved since the previous edition. We gladly invite everyone to distribute *INTER-SECTION* publications amongst their personal network and welcome students to send in proposals. Details can be found on our website.

An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing a central point where a river splits into several channels that fan out across a flat, green landscape. The water is a deep blue, and the surrounding land is a vibrant green. The channels are well-defined and create a symmetrical, star-like pattern.

INTER-SECTION is a journal intended for everyone that is connected to the Leiden University Faculty of Archaeology. The journal offers an accessible platform for the publication of individual research performed by undergraduate and graduate students. Guided by a staff member referee, authors write an article that is peer-reviewed by a scholar from outside the faculty. Articles are peer-reviewed journal written by and for students which will also be an interesting read for staff members, as they are asked to review the articles as well. At *INTER-SECTION*, we feel it is important that the publications printed in the journal aid the student-authors in building their scientific careers. The online open-access of the journal is one way of achieving that; the authors can easily add their publication to their CV and/or academia.edu account.

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II